

II. REMARKS

Claim 1 was amended under Article 34 in response to the written opinion to recite that the method for promoting wound healing includes the step of "culturing the fibroblasts in a culture medium such that the cultured fibroblasts are non-immunogenic when administered."

Support for this amendment can be found on page 5, lines 26 to 30, which states:

"preferably the fibroblasts are cultured in serum-free medium or medium comprising the animal's own serum, thereby reducing the possibility of the animal undergoing an immunogenic reaction to the fibroblasts upon administration".

Claim 1 was also amended to recite that the autologous fibroblasts are administered "in the form of an injection." Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, lines 27 to 28, which states that:

"[a]fter the fibroblasts in culture have reached confluence, the fibroblasts can be processed for administration, such as by injection,....."

Claim 16 was also amended under Article 34 in response to the written opinion and has been further amended herein to recite that the autologous fibroblasts are administered "in the form of an injection into the fistula tract opening." Support for this amendment can be found on page 7, line 30, to page 8, line 2, which states that:

"[a]dministration of autologous fibroblasts in the promotion of healing of a fistula is preferably by injection of the external fistula tract opening...."

Claim 38 has been added herein. Support for claim 38 can be found on page 5, lines 28 to 29, which states:

"preferably the fibroblasts are cultured in medium comprising the animal's own serum."

Accordingly, these amendments do not introduce new matter.

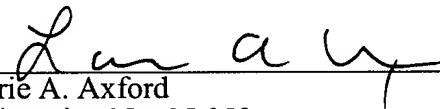
III. SUMMARY

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 514072000100.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) A method of promoting [fistula] healing of a fistula having a fistula tract opening in an animal, wherein said fistula is susceptible to healing upon administration of autologous fibroblasts, which method comprises:

- (a) obtaining autologous fibroblasts, and
- (b) administering the autologous fibroblasts in the form of an injection into the fistula tract [track] opening [in said animal], wherein said autologous fibroblasts promote healing of the fistula.